सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० इब्राहीम): (क) और (ख) दूरदर्शन केन्द्र, राजकोट के अधिकारियों से प्राप्त 3 अभ्यावेदनों में से दो अधिकारियों को एक को दिसम्बर, 1994 में तथा दूसरे अधिकारी को अक्तूबर, 1996 में केन्द्र से स्थानांतरित किया गया है।

(ग) और (घ) यद्यपि अधिकारियों की तैनाती के मामले में एक सामान्य अवधि निर्धारित की गई है तथापि, यह आवश्यक नहीं है कि ऐसी अवधि पूरी होने के तत्काल बाद स्थानांतरण किया जाना चाहिए। "क" और "ख" श्रेणी के केन्द्रों में तैनात अराजपत्रित स्टाफ तथा समूह "ग" और "घ" से संबंधित स्टाफ का स्थानांतरण नैमी आधार पर नहीं बल्कि उनके स्वयं के अनुरोध पर अथवा प्रशासनिक कारणों से किया जाता है। इसलिए निर्धारित समय अवधि से अधिक तैनाती को कोई अपराध नहीं माना जाता है।

Problems of Resource Crunch and Foreign Exchange Volatility

480. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economy experienced the problems of resource crunch and foreign exchange volatility recently;

(b) if so, what has been the impact of these problems on the economy;

(c) the factors responsible for these problems; and

(d) the details of steps taken to avoid resurgence of such problems in the future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) In the recent period, *i.e.* during the financial year 1996-97 (up to end-October 1996), the economy has not experienced any resource crunch. There has also been no problem of volatility in the exchange rate of the rupee *vis-a-vis* U.S. dollar as it remained stable moving in the narrow range of Rs. 34.14 — Rs. 35.86 per U.S. dollar during 1996-97 so far (April—October 1996).

(b) to (d) The Reserve Bank keeps a close watch on monetary and credit developments, and the movements in the foreign exchange market monitoed on a regular basis. In case of problems, suitable policy initiatives are undertaken. As and where required, co-ordinated policy intervention in consultation with the Government, is resorted to.

Outstanding dues on Air India

481. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India owes aproximately Rs. 175 crores to its vendors like OIL, AAI, HP and HCI; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) As on October 31, 1996 Air India owes about Rs. 166 crores to its vendors as per details below:—

	Amount (Rs. in crores)
Indian Oil Corporation	74.00
Airports Authority of India	24.00
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	48.00
Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.	20.00
TOTAL	166.00

WHO Assistance to Fight Kala-Azar

482. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the appropriate number of people dying Every year due to Kala-azar;

(b) whether Government are saking the help of WHO to fight Kala-azar; and

(c) if so, the datails of the negotiations made and rasponse thereto of WHO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM

IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The number of deaths reported due to Kala-azar during last 3 years are:—

Year	No. of Deaths
1993	710
1994	384
1995	277
1996	449 (upto Aug. 1996. provisional)

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

WHO Warning Against Dengue Outbreak

483. PROF. RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Health Organisation (WHO) had warned the Union Health Ministry and civil bodies in Delhi as early as September against an impending Dengue outbreak;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Regional Office WHO had issued detailed guidelines for prevention of Dengue fever and clinical management; and

(c) if so, what action was taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) WHO's letter dated 9th September, 1996 to the Union Health Ministry only contained trend analysis of incidence of Dengue Fever/ Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever in different South East Asian countries including India. However, there was no specific warning for any part of India or Delhi. Government was advised to keep vigil in major hospitals and prepare for any emergency handling of the situation. Control Rooms were set up in the Directorate General of Health Services and Directorate of National Malaria Eradication Programme on 10.9.96 and 13.9.96 respectively and all hospitals were asked to monitor and report the cases and deaths to the authorities. The national Institute of Communicable Diseases also issued a Dengue Alert to all State Governments and reiterated the guidelines relating to surveillance and containment of Dengue which had been issued in August, 1995.

(b) and (c) The guidelines for precention of Dengue fever and clinical management from Regional Office, WHO were received on 4.10.96 and were circulated to all hospitals in Delhi on 7.10.96.

Interest Rates of Banks

484. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that banks are flush with funds but interest rates are high; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to reduce interest rates to revive economy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that there has been improvement in the overall liquidity position in the financial system. The liquidity position of banks has improved mainly due to increase in deposits and reduction in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) effected since November, 1995. The Prime Lending Rates (PLRs) of some banks which ruled 16.5 per cent from November 1995 to mid-July 1996 was brought down to 16.00 per cent under the impact, inter alia, of a sharp increase in lendable resources prompted by cuts in CRR. In September-October 1996, a few banks reduced the PLR to 15.0 per cent. RBI have further reported that in October 1996, following the announcement of the monetary policy for the second half of 1996-97, including further lowering of CRR in phases, the lendable resources of banks would be enhanced by about Rs.4275 crore for each percentage point reduction in CRR. In the light of the measures announced by RBI, banks by reducing their PLRs appropriately.